

Our Lady of Consolation's Banners for Black Lives Matter

The Black Culture Commission of Our Lady of Consolation requested that members of our parish carry Black Lives Matter banners in the Eucharistic Congress Processional on September 9, 2017. Why?

What is Black Lives Matter Movement?

Black Lives Matter is a national chapter-based "movement" that affirms the lives of all Black people and has at its root a desire to call out and eradicate the racial hatred, social injustice and implicit bias that exists in this nation that results in the racial profiling, inequitable arrests, sentencing and imprisonment of people of color, dehumanizing encounters by people of color with police and others in positions of civil authority that too often ends in the death of the person of color.

How did the Black Lives Matter Movement get started? Is it a "hate" organization?

Black Lives Matter (BLM), much like the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and '70's, does not profess one race to be superior to another. Rather, the organization's activities are open to all races, ethnicities and cultures. It is a call to action born out of the overwhelming response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman's acquittal in the death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. BLM affirms the value and sanctity of Black life in all of its iterations, regardless of religious affiliation, origin, age, sex or sexual orientation.

Why should the Church support the Black Lives Matter Movement?

The Church should support Black Lives Matter because the Church supports the right to life! That means the right to "... exist, the condition that distinguishes animals and plants from inorganic matter, including the capacity for growth, reproduction, functional activity, and continual change preceding death." Too many Black people and other people of color in this nation continue to be denied that right. The deaths of many of these individuals are all too similar to the lynching epidemic of the 1930's, '40's and '50's. We as a church support justice and peace – understanding that without justice...there is not peace.

Does Our Lady of Consolation's carrying Black Lives Matter Banners represent a kind of protest?

No. Our overt support of BLM is an affirmation of who we are as a Church community and a statement of solidarity with our overall community as we too work to call out and rectify injustice, teaching our children to be strong in their faith and in their Blackness...finding God and beauty in both.